

Guidelines for OVHA Coverage

ITEM: COMMODE

DEFINITION: A commode chair is a device which serves as a toilet, but which is not connected to a plumbing system.

GUIDELINES: The beneficiary must be confined to a single room, or to one level of his/her home environment. Leaving this environment is medically contraindicated and/or the beneficiary is incapable of doing so. Absence of toilet facilities in the home, or on the floor where the beneficiary is confined, would qualify for coverage.

An extra wide/heavy duty commode chair is appropriate for beneficiaries that have a width greater than or equal to 23 inches and/or weigh more than 300 pounds.

A sitz bath is covered if the medical record indicates that the patient has an infection or injury of the perineal area.

APPLICABLE CODES:

E0162 Sitz bath chair

E0163 Commode, stationary, fixed arms 1 per 5 yrs.

E0164 Commode, mobile with fixed arms 1 per 5 yrs.

E0166 Commode, mobile with detachable arms 1 per 5 yrs.

E0167 Pail or pan for use with commode chair 1 per 2 yrs.

E0168 Commode chair, extra-wide and/or heavy duty, stationary or mobile, with or without arms, any type, each 1 per 5 yrs.

E0169 Commode chair with seat lift mechanism 1 per 5 yrs.

CAUTIONS: Mobile commodes must be used with caution as the brakes can be ineffective, and the commode can move during transfers if not stabilized correctly. Caution should also be used for individuals with fragile skin when transferring to, and sitting on, the commode seat. Use of a commode without a caregiver present can result in a safety risk for some individuals, particularly if they have difficulty with balance, judgment, and/or mobility impairments.

EXAMPLES OF DIAGNOSES: Immediately post surgery, cerebrovascular accident, spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, severe debilitation, Parkinsons' disease, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, severe arthritis.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION: Current, complete Certificate of Medical Necessity; supporting documentation demonstrating that the beneficiary is confined to a single room, or to one level of his/her home environment, and that leaving this environment is medically contraindicated and/or the beneficiary is incapable of doing so, or there is an absence of toilet facilities in the home, or on the floor where the beneficiary is confined. An extra wide/heavy duty commode chair requires documentation that the patient requires a width greater than or equal to 23 inches and/or weigh more than 300

pounds. A sitz bath requires documentation that the patient has an infection or injury of the perineal area. A drop arm feature requires documentation that the patient uses a sliding board or popover transfer technique. A seat lift feature requires documentation that the patient can not stand from a raised height commode and that the patient can ambulate once standing.

REFERENCES:

Complete Guide to Medicare Coverage Issues. St. Anthony Publ., Nov. 2001, Ingenix Inc., Reston, VA.

Regional Medical Review Policies, Tricenturion LLC, Columbia, SC

www.tricenturion.com.

Medical Director's signature: _____

OVHA Director's signature: _____

Date:

Revision 1:

Revision 2:

Revision 3: